

August 30, 2017

Mr. William W. Gray
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Fountaintown, Indiana 46130
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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

Re: **Docket No. FD 36137**
City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana
Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for filing to the above-captioned proceeding of written comment regarding the "Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption" filed on August 1, 2017 with the Surface Transportation Board. A copy of this comment has also been served on the attorney, Robert A. Wimbish, who is representing the collective owners, City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County (the "Owners"), of a railroad line in Indiana.

I am a resident of the Metropolitan Indianapolis area wishing to express my opposition to the proposed railbanking and interim trail use of the subject railroad line (the "Line") from milepost I- 2.13 at Indianapolis, Indiana, to milepost I-39.69 at Tipton, Indiana.

Having ridden the above line on multiple occasions which included the Indiana State Fair Train, I really feel that the Owners are missing the point of having an operating heritage rail corridor in their backyard. What the towns of Fishers and Noblesville are doing makes no sense at all. The tourism traffic generated by guests of the Indiana Transportation Museum or a new operator greatly out numbers those generated by a trail. Severing a rail corridor in the middle makes no sense especially when there is one operator already in position to continue operations of the entire line. These operations were supported solely by ticket sales and donations. No public tax dollars were used to subsidize the former operators operations.

I do not believe the Owners are looking at all sides of this issue. I also do not believe the Owners have listened to its residents' concerns or the residents of the surrounding community concerns that this line serves. The line stretches outside the boundaries of Hamilton County and this decision will affect these residents as well. I do believe this line has a future to help this area grow in many ways as an active rail line versus than that of a trail. Once the rail is removed chances of the rail being reinstalled drops considerably as does future possibilities.

Please consider rejecting the Owner's Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption

Sincerely,

William W Gray

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 1, 2017
Part of
Public Record